IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims are as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A system for transmitting a programmable message to a receiving device upon receipt of an event, said system comprising:

an Internet data communications network;

at least one sending device operatively connected to the data communications network, the at least one sending device sending a stream of packets;

at least one further sending device operatively connected to the data communications network, the at least one further sending device transmitting an event in a packet upon a predetermined occurrence;

at least one receiving device operatively connected to the data communications network, the at least one receiving device capable of receiving and processing data, the at least one receiving device receiving and rendering said stream of packets;

a persistent data store;

a predetermined set of selectively retrievable messages stored in the persistent data store;

a monitor operatively in communication with the sending devices, the monitor further being able to access the set of selectively retrievable messages stored in the persistent data store; and

monitoring software, at least a portion of which is resident and executable within the monitor, the monitoring software causing the monitor to detect the event in the packet transmitted by the at least one further sending device, to select at least one of the selectively retrievable messages based on the event, to modify data in the packet containing the event to include the selected retrievable message, and to substitute said modified packet for a corresponding packet in said stream of packets, whereby said at least one receiving device renders said selected retrievable message.

2. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data communications network interface is selected from the group of data communications network interfaces consisting of wired networks, wireless networks, and mixed wired and wireless networks.

3. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data communications network further comprises a local area network.

4. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the events comprise alerts generated by sending devices operatively connected to the local area network.

5. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the monitor is operatively connected to both the Internet and the local area network as a gateway intermediate the Internet and one or more devices operatively connected to the local area network.

6. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one receiving device receiving the message from the monitor is selected from a group of receiving devices connected to the local area network and receiving devices operatively connected to the Internet.

7. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one receiving device processes the selected retrievable message into data formatted to be rendered into human perceptible experiences.

8. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the receiving device comprises intelligent home network appliances, radios, personal computers, and televisions, each of which is capable of rendering the processed data into human perceptible experiences.

9. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the persistent data store is a selected from the set of persistent data stores consisting of magnetic media located local

to the monitor, magnetic media distributed away from the monitor, optical media located local to the monitor, optical media distributed away from the monitor, solid state memories located local to the monitor, and solid state memories distributed away from the monitor.

10. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system further comprises an external source of messages, wherein the monitoring software causes the monitor to selectively receive and process messages from the external source when selecting at least one of the selectively retrievable messages based on the event.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of generating messages for transmission to a receiving device, responsive to packets received at a monitor, the monitor operatively connected to the Internet and to the receiving device, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring original packets being received by a receiving device;

selecting at least one retrievable message from a set of retrievable messages responsive to a received event for packets of said original packets comprising at least one event; and

for each receiving device associated with the selected retrievable message, replacing each original packet being received by the receiving device with a new packet comprising a

predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message for the duration of the selected retrievable message.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

sending the retrievable messages selected based on the received event to at least one default receiving device if no receiving devices are associated with the retrievable messages selected based on the received event.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said replacing step further comprises the step of:

mixing a predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message with a predetermined portion of an input streaming media data stream contained in the original packet into a new streaming media stream contained in the new packet.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said replacing step further comprising the steps of:

altering an audio portion of the input streaming media data stream to a predetermined level before mixing the predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message with the predetermined portion of the input streaming media data stream into a new streaming media stream; and

altering a video portion of the input streaming media data stream to a predetermined level before mixing the predetermined

portion of the selected retrievable message with the predetermined portion of the input streaming media data stream into a new streaming media stream.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said replacing step further comprises the step of:

storing a predetermined portion of the original packet for later retrieval before replacing each original packet with a new packet comprising a predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said method further comprising the step of:

enabling an authorized end user to modify at least one property of the set of retrievable messages for the set of retrievable messages further comprising at least one property for each retrievable message.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the modifiable property of the set of retrievable messages comprises a destination address, audio content, visual content, and subsequent actions to be performed by at least one of the devices at the destination address.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

receiving messages from an authorized third party source of messages;

associating the messages received from the third party with at least one event; and

storing the messages received from the third party into the set of retrievable messages.

19. (Previously Presented) An electronic event-based messaging system comprising:

means for receiving a first packet from the Internet;

means for analyzing the first packet to determine if it contains an event;

means for retrieving at least one message associated with the event from a set of retrievable messages for first packets containing events;

means for transforming data in the first packet into a set of data in a second packet containing at least a portion of the retrieved message; and

means for substituting the second packet for the first packet for destination addresses required by the first packet that are also required by the second packet.

20. (Previously Presented) A packet-based messaging system stored via a data storage medium, said packet-based messaging system comprising:

a first plurality of binary values for receiving a first packet over the Internet;

a second plurality of binary values for analyzing the first packet to determine if it contains an event;

a third plurality of binary values for retrieving at least one message associated with the event from a set of retrievable messages for first packets containing events;

a fourth plurality of binary values for transforming data in the first packet into a set of data in a second packet containing at least a portion of the retrieved message; and

a fifth plurality of binary values for substituting the second packet for the first packet for destination addresses required by the first packet that are also required by the second packet.

21-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied within a computer-readable medium for causing a processor to perform the method as claimed in claim 11.

24. (Cancelled).